

SEVERE LOCAL HAIL AND WIND STORMS, FEBRUARY, 1926

[The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the Annual Report of the Chief of Bureau]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks	Authority
California Coast.....	(1)					High winds and gales.	Shipping imperiled; considerable damage to piers and coast resorts.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
New Orleans, La., and vicinity.	2	10:30 a. m.			\$13,000	Tornadic wind....	One house practically wrecked; roofs and fences damaged; wire service impaired.	Do.
West Palm Beach, Fla., and vicinity.	3	6:30 a. m.		1	35,000	do.....	Three hundred persons made homeless; trucks and touring cars wrecked; wires and trees prostrated; many persons injured.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau Journal (Jacksonville, Fla.).
Meadow Point, Puget Sound, Wash.	3	A. m.			18,000	High wind.....	Deck load of barge lost.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Cecil, Kent, and Talbot Counties, Md.	3				5,000	do.....	Telephone and light service crippled.	Do.
Hartford, Conn.	3-4					Wind and snow....	General delay of interurban traffic; factory roof collapsed causing loss of several lives and much property damage.	Do.
Walla Walla, Wash., and vicinity.	3-6				2,150	Wind and rain....	Power lines damaged by wind; much property damage by flooding.	Do.
North Head, Wash.	4					High wind.....	Trees uprooted; all land wire communication between Astoria, Oreg., and South Bend and Raymond, Wash., disrupted.	Do.
Lower Hudson Valley and Long Island, N. Y.	10					Snow and high wind.	Railway service, motor, and street car traffic seriously delayed.	Do.
New Burnside, Ill.	13					Wind.....	Minor property damage reported.	Do.
Cairo, Ill.	13-14					Thunderstorm and wind.	Communication lines, signs, awnings, and trees blown down; traffic in some sections discontinued for some time.	Do.
Grayson, Hart, and Barren Counties, Ky.	14				12,000	Electrical.....	Several barns destroyed.	Do.
Lexington, Ky. (near)	14				100,000	do.....	Stock barn destroyed, causing loss of 25 horses.	Do.
Raleigh, N. C., and vicinity.	14	5:50 p. m.				Heavy hail.....	No damage reported.	Do.
Bingham, Utah (near)	17	A. m.		36		Snowslide.....	Fourteen miners' cottages and a three-story frame boarding house demolished; 13 persons injured.	Do.
North-central and northeastern counties, Kansas.	17-18			1	10,000	Wind, snow, and sleet.	All traffic and electric service demoralized for about 24 hours; telephone, telegraph, and power lines broken.	Do.
Calhoun and Cherokee Counties, Ala.	18	6:15 p. m.			2,000	Hail.....	Some damage to timber and houses near Wellington; slight damage in Cherokee County.	Do.
Terre Haute, Ind.	18	6:28 p. m.			400	Thunderstorm....	Poles blown down interfering with street car service for several hours.	Do.
Arkansas.	24	P. m.				Straight winds....	Damage throughout State not estimated.	Do.
Lake Village, Ark. (6 mi. south of), to near Greenville, Miss.	24	8 p. m.	100	7	70,000	Tornado.....	Twenty-seven persons injured; damage in Mississippi not estimated.	Do.
Near boundary of Leflore and Holmes Counties, Miss.	24	P. m.		2		Probably tornado..	Property damage not reported.	Do.
Teasdale, Miss.	24	P. m.		1		Probably tornado..	Practically whole town demolished; 24 injured.	Do.
Vicksburg, Miss.	24	10:56 p. m.				Wind.....	Minor property damage reported.	Do.
New Madrid County, Mo. (parts of).	24	P. m.			500	High wind.....	Several silos wrecked; small tenant houses damaged and a few trees uprooted.	Do.
Nashville, Tenn.	24	P. m.				do.....	Telephone lines down; plate glass windows broken.	Do.
Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio (parts of).	24-25					High wind and rain.	Considerable damage to property; public utilities suffer heavy losses; wind became tornadic in places.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau; Journal (Evansville, Ind.); Plain Dealer (Dayton, O.).
Memphis, Tenn.	24-25					Wind and rain....	Trees and wires damaged; streets flooded.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Baltimore Harbor, Md.	25					High winds.....	Slight damage to two lighters and several other vessels.	Do.
Meridian, Miss.	25	1:30 a. m.				Wind squall.....	Minor property damage reported.	Do.
Southwestern counties, Pennsylvania.	25	P. m.				Violent wind and rain.	Windows shattered; chimneys, roofs and other structures damaged in Uniontown, Pittsburgh, and Greensburg districts. Poles blown down; lighting circuits out of commission.	Do.
Buffalo, N. Y., and vicinity.	26					High wind and snow.	Traffic considerably impeded by drifting snow.	Do.
Bismarck, N. Dak.	28	P. m.			500-1,000	Wind.....	Roof blown from brick kiln.	Do.

¹ Continued from January 5. 551.515 (73)

STORMS AND WEATHER WARNINGS

WASHINGTON FORECAST DISTRICT

Storm warnings that were displayed on January 31 from Delaware Breakwater northward in connection with a disturbance that developed over the southeastern Gulf of Mexico and moved almost due north, were continued on February 1. Another disturbance moved rapidly southeastward from the northern California coast to the Texas coast and from there it advanced rather slowly northeastward with increasing intensity to Newfoundland, which it reached during the 5th. Storm warnings were ordered from Jacksonville, Fla., to Cape Hatteras at 10 p. m., of the 2d, north of Cape Hatteras to Boston the morning of the 3d, and north of Boston to Eastport, Me., at 3 p. m., of the same date. Both Atlantic City, N. J., and Nantucket, Mass., reported a

wind velocity of 68 miles an hour from the northeast on the 4th.

The next disturbance of importance advanced south-eastward from British Columbia to the upper Ohio Valley during the 7th-9th. The evening reports of the 9th showed that a secondary was developing over Virginia and North Carolina. It seemed certain that this secondary disturbance would increase in intensity as it moved northeastward and would soon become the main disturbance. Accordingly northeast storm warnings were ordered displayed at 9.30 p. m. from Sandy Hook, N. J., to Eastport, Me. All stations in this area reported verifying wind velocities, the highest being 68 at Nantucket, Mass., and 64 at Block Island, R. I., both from the northeast.

A disturbance that moved rapidly eastward from Nevada to the Middle Atlantic and North Atlantic States

during the 12th-14th increased gradually in intensity, New York City reporting a barometer reading of 29.26 inches at 8 p. m. of the 14th. Storm warnings were displayed at 10 a. m. of the 14th from Jacksonville, Fla., to Eastport, Me. However, the only station that reported a verifying velocity was Eastport, where the maximum was 38 miles an hour from the northeast.

A disturbance that entered the United States on the Washington and Oregon coasts was central over extreme southern Illinois at 8 p. m. of the 18th. The pressure-change chart indicated that this disturbance would increase considerably in intensity, but that strong winds along the Atlantic coast were not likely to occur until after the passage of the center of the trough of low pressure. An advisory warning to this effect was sent to all Weather Bureau stations on the Atlantic coast at 9 p. m. of the 18th, and at 10 a. m. of the 19th northwest storm warnings were displayed from Jacksonville, Fla., to Eastport, Me. Several stations reported a maximum wind velocity of 40 miles or more an hour, the highest being 60 from the northwest at New York City.

Again on the evening of the 24th a disturbance that was central over Arkansas showed unmistakable evidence of a marked increase in intensity, as it advanced northeast, and an advisory warning was sent to all stations on the Atlantic and east Gulf coasts. The following morning southeast storm warnings were displayed from Eastport, Me., to Delaware Breakwater, and southwest warnings southward to Cape Hatteras. The following high wind velocities were reported: New York City, 76 m. p. h., and Atlantic City, 68 m. p. h., both from the south; and Nantucket, Mass., and Norfolk, Va., 56 and 52 m. p. h., respectively, from the southeast.

Small-craft warnings were issued for portions of the Atlantic coast on the 10th, 19th, 25th, and 26th, and for the east Gulf coast on the 19th. Warnings of strong northerly winds for the Panama Canal Zone were issued on the 19th and the 26th.

Heavy-snow warnings were issued on the 3d for portions of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, and they were fully verified. On the morning of the 4th the following depths of snow were reported: Binghamton, 17 inches; Boston, 15; and Albany and Harrisburg, 12.

Frost warnings were included in the regular a. m. forecasts on 14 dates for portions of the extreme south, and on the 11th and 19th frost was predicted for southern Florida as far south as Miami.—*C. L. Mitchell.*

CHICAGO FORECAST DISTRICT

The month was comparatively uneventful, so far as the occurrence of inclement weather conditions is concerned. In fact, the weather was remarkably mild in the western portion of the district, and even in the eastern portion the temperature averaged well above normal at most stations. As might be expected, therefore, cold waves were infrequent, and those that did occur affected more or less limited areas only in the Lake region and adjacent territory. Similarly, the few cold wave warnings issued included in their scope in each instance relatively small areas. The dates on which warnings were issued were the 13th to the 17th, inclusive. For the most part the issuance of the warnings was justified. In most of the cases where cold waves occurred without warning the forecasts had called for "colder" or "much colder."

Storms on Lake Michigan.—Only one disturbance of major proportions affected Lake Michigan. This did not attain storm intensity in its eastward movement until it had almost reached the Lake. The storm resulted from the coalescing of two disturbances, one from the northwest and the other from the southwest, on the night of the 24th-25th. At the morning observation on the 25th the reduced barometer at Grand Haven, Mich., was 28.86 inches. North and northwest gales prevailed over the entire Lake on that date, attended by heavy rain, sleet, or snow. The warning for this storm was issued on the night of the 24th. Other warnings of this character for shipping on the Lake were issued on the 5th, 8th, 11th, 18th, and 28th.—*C. A. Donnel.*

NEW ORLEANS FORECAST DISTRICT

The weather in this district was exceptionally mild and dry, averaging much like the weather of February, 1925.

Northwest storm warnings were issued for the Texas coast on the 17th, at 8:30 p. m., because of a disturbance that was moving eastward from the southern Rocky Mountain slope, followed by strong northwest winds, which extended to the coast during the 18th, gales continuing at Galveston into the morning of the 19th.

Local, southeast gales of brief duration occurred at Corpus Christi, Tex., on the 21st, for which small craft warnings had been displayed by the official in charge at Corpus Christi. The maximum wind velocity, 44 miles from the southeast, was out of proportion to the moderate barometric gradient.

Small-craft warnings were displayed on the Louisiana coast on the 19th and on the Texas coast on the 26th; and a "norther" warning for Tampico, Mexico, was issued on the 26th. These warnings were justified.

Timely warnings were issued on the 14th and 17th, respectively, for moderate cold waves in Oklahoma and extreme northwestern Arkansas and were justified. Cold wave warnings for the northern portion of east Texas, also, were issued on the 17th; but the movement of the area of high pressure was not attended by temperatures low enough to cause a cold wave so far south.

Frost or freezing temperature warnings for portions of the more southern part of the district were issued on the 1st, 10th, 18th, 19th, 26th, and 27th. Conditions occurred as forecast except for the warning issued on the 1st.—*R. A. Dyke.*

DENVER FORECAST DISTRICT

With low barometric pressure prevailing most of the time along the Pacific coast and over the Canadian Northwest, the month was remarkably mild throughout the district. Several disturbances from the Pacific entered or crossed the district, causing more stormy weather than usual in northern Utah, which was about the only part of the district in which precipitation was not deficient. The only cold-wave warning issued was on the evening of the 13th for the extreme eastern portions of Montana and Wyoming. The temperature fall the following morning was from 12° to 24°, with a minimum of zero at Williston, N. D. No other cold waves occurred. Frost warnings were issued on the 4th and 17th for southwestern Arizona, and on the 23d for southern Arizona; the last two were followed by temperatures low enough for the formation of frost in the regions specified.—*E. B. Gittings.*